

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) A tension adjusting device attached to an axle member of a driven
 - 2 wheel of a vehicle and coupled to a forked frame member ~~to adjust for adjusting~~
 - 3 a tension of a flexible power transmission means that transfers power from a
 - 4 drive shaft of said vehicle to said driven wheel, said tension adjusting device
 - 5 comprising:
 - 6 a first tension adjuster joined to a first side of said axle member, said first
 - 7 tension adjuster comprising:
 - 8 a first adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably engage a
 - 9 guide recess of a first fork of said forked frame member and a
 - 10 second dimension sufficient to support a first axle fastener to said
 - 11 axle member to said first adjustment plate, said first adjustment
 - 12 plate including:
 - 13 an extending member that extends over an end of said first fork,
 - 14 an axle bore through which said first side of said axle member
 - 15 passes to receive the first axle fastener to secure said axle
 - 16 member to said first adjustment plate and couple said first
 - 17 adjustment plate to said first fork of said forked frame
 - 18 member, and

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

19 a capturing recess inlet into said first adjustment plate to secure
 20 first axle fastener to prevent movement of said first axle
 21 fastener during the coupling of the driven wheel, and
 22 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said
 23 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said first fork, and
 24 a first adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to said first
 25 adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is in contact with
 26 the end of said first fork to allow the axle member of the driven
 27 wheel to move in an adjustment slot within said guide recess to
 28 adjust the tension of the power transmission means;
 29 a second tension adjuster joined to a second side of said axle member,
 30 said second tension adjuster comprising:
 31 a second adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably engage
 32 a guide recess of a second fork of said forked frame member and a
 33 second dimension sufficient to support a second axle fastener to
 34 said axle member to said second adjustment plate, said second
 35 adjustment plate including:
 36 an extending member that extends over an end of said second
 37 fork,

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

38 an axle bore through which said second side of said axle
39 member passes to receive the second axle fastener to
40 secure said axle member to said second adjustment plate
41 and couple said second adjustment plate to said second fork
42 of said forked frame member, and
43 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said
44 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said second fork, and
45 a second adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to said
46 second adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is in
47 contact with the end of said second fork to allow the axle member
48 of the driven wheel to move in an adjustment slot within said guide
49 recess to adjust the tension of the power transmission means.

- 1 2. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein said tension
2 adjusting device is used to replace an original equipment tension adjusting
3 device integrated within said forked frame member and placed forward of the
4 axle member within said guide recesses of the first and second forks.

- 1 3. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first and second
2 adjustment plates are formed of materials selected from the group of materials
3 ~~comprising~~ consisting of steel, aluminum, titanium and carbon epoxy.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

- 1 4. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first tension
2 adjuster further comprises a captivating nut secured to the first adjustment plate
3 within said adjustment bore to accept said first adjustment stud.

- 1 5. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the second tension
2 adjuster further comprises a captivating nut secured to the second adjustment
3 plate within said adjustment bore to accept said second adjustment stud.

- 1 6. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first and second
2 adjustment studs are threaded and include a securing nut which, when said first
3 and second adjusting studs have moved said driven wheel such that said flexible
4 power transmission means has a correct tension, said securing nut for the first
5 and second adjustment studs are placed to lock said first and second adjustment
6 studs respectively to the first and second adjustment plates.

- 1 7. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first and second
2 adjustment plates each include at least one guide marking placed to insure that
3 the ~~axel~~axle member is oriented with respect to said forked frame member.

- 1 8. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the flexible power
2 transmission means is selected from the group of transmission means consisting
3 of a chain and said chain is engaged with teeth of a sprocket coupled to said
4 driven wheel and a belt placed on a pulley coupled to said driven wheel.

- 1 9. (Cancelled)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

1 10. (Amended) A tension adjusting device attached to an axle member of a driven
2 wheel of a vehicle and coupled to a forked frame member ~~to adjust~~ for adjusting
3 tension of a flexible power transmission means that transfers power from a drive
4 shaft of said vehicle to said driven wheel, said tension adjusting device
5 comprising:

6 a tension adjuster joined to one side of said axle member, said first
7 tension adjuster comprising:

8 an adjustment plate with a first dimension to slidably engage a guide
9 recess of a fork of said forked frame member and a second
10 dimension sufficient to support an axle fastener to said axle
11 member to said adjustment plate, said adjustment plate including:

12 an extending member that extends over an end of said fork,

13 an axle bore through which said side of said axle member
14 passes to receive the axle fastener to secure said axle
15 member to said first adjustment plate and couple said first
16 adjustment plate to said first fork of said forked frame
17 member, and

18 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said
19 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said fork, and

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

20 a first adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to said
21 adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is in contact with
22 the end of said fork to allow the axle member of the driven wheel to
23 move in an adjustment slot within said guide recess to adjust the
24 tension of the power transmission means.

1 11. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment plate
2 further comprises:

3 a capturing recess inlet into said adjustment plate that secures said axle
4 fastener to prevent movement of said axle fastener during the coupling
5 of the driven wheel.

1 12. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein said tension
2 adjusting device is used to replace an original equipmnt tension adjusting device
3 integrated within said forked frame member and placed forward of the axle
4 member within said guide recesses of the first and second forks.

1 13. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment
2 plates are formed of materials selected from the group of materials ~~comprising~~
3 consisting of steel, aluminum, titanium and carbon epoxy.

1 14. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the tension adjuster
2 further comprises a captivating nut secured to the first adjustment plate within
3 said adjustment bore to accept said first adjustment stud.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

1 15. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment stud is
2 threaded and includes a securing nut which, when said adjusting stud has moved
3 said driven wheel such that said flexible power transmission means has a correct
4 tension, said securing nut for the adjustment stud is placed to lock said
5 adjustment stud to the adjustment plate.

1 16. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment
2 plates include at least one guide marking placed to insure that the ~~axel~~axle
3 member is oriented with respect to said forked frame member.

1 17. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the flexible power
2 transmission means is selected from the group of power transmission means
3 consisting of a chain and said chain is engaged with teeth of a sprocket coupled
4 to said driven wheel and a belt placed on a pulley coupled to said driven wheel.

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Amended) A method ~~to replace an original equipment tension adjusting device~~
2 ~~attached to an axle member of a driven wheel of a vehicle and coupled to a~~
3 ~~forked frame member to adjust for adjusting~~ tension of a flexible power
4 transmission means that transfers power from a drive shaft of said vehicle to said
5 driven wheel, said method comprising the steps of:

6 ~~removing said original equipment tension adjusting device from said~~
7 ~~forked frame member and said axle member;~~

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

8 providing a replacement tension adjusting device, said replacement
9 tension adjusting device comprising:

10 a first tension adjuster joined to a first side of said axle member, said
11 first tension adjuster comprising:

12 a first adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably
13 engage a guide recess of a first fork of said forked frame
14 member and a second dimension sufficient to support a first
15 axle fastener to said axle member to said first adjustment
16 plate, said first adjustment plate including:

17 an extending member that extends over an end of said first
18 fork,

19 an axle bore through which said first side of said axle
20 member passes to receive the first axle fastener to
21 secure said axle member to said first adjustment plate
22 and couple said first adjustment plate to said first fork of
23 said forked frame member,

24 a capturing recess inlet into said first adjustment plate to
25 secure a first axle fastener to prevent movement of said
26 first axle fastener during the coupling of the driven wheel,
27 and

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

28 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said
29 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said first fork, and

30 a first adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to
31 said first adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is
32 in contact with the end of said first fork to allow the axle
33 member of the driven wheel to move in an adjustment slot
34 within said guide recess to adjust the tension of the power
35 transmission means;

36 a second tension adjuster joined to a second side of said axle member,
37 said second tension adjuster comprising:

38 a second adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably
39 engage a guide recess of a second fork of said forked frame
40 member and a second dimension sufficient to support a
41 second axle fastener to said axle member to said second
42 adjustment plate, said second adjustment plate including:

43 an extending member that extends over an end of said
44 second fork,

45 an axle bore through which said second side of said axle
46 member passes to receive the second axle fastener to
47 secure said axle member to said second adjustment

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

48 plate and couple said second adjustment plate to said
49 second fork of said forked frame member, and

50 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said
51 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said second fork,
52 and

53 a second adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore
54 to said second adjustment plate such that said adjustment
55 stud is in contact with the end of said second fork to allow
56 the axle member of the driven wheel to move in an
57 adjustment slot within said guide recess to adjust the tension
58 of the power transmission means;

59 installing said ~~replacement~~ tension adjusting device on said axle
60 member;

61 placing said driven wheel with said ~~replacement~~ tension adjusting
62 device between the first and second fork of said forked frame
63 member;

64 coupling said flexible power transmission means to said driven wheel;

65 modifying placement of said driven wheel such that the extending
66 members of the first and second adjustment plates are aligned

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

67 respectively with the ends of first and second ends of the forked
68 frame member;

69 modifying placement of said driven wheel to adjust the flexible power
70 transmission means to a preliminary tension; and

71 varying the first and second adjustment studs to move said driven
72 wheel incrementally to adjust the flexible power transmission
73 means to a final tension.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the first and second adjustment plates
2 are formed of materials selected from the group of materials comprising steel,
3 aluminum, titanium and carbon epoxy.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the first tension adjuster further
2 comprises a captivating nut secured to the first adjustment plate within said
3 adjustment bore to accept said first adjustment stud.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the second tension adjuster further
2 comprises a captivating nut secured to the second adjustment plate within said
3 adjustment bore to accept said second adjustment stud.

1 23. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the first and second adjustment studs
2 are threaded and include a securing nut.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

24. (Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of adjusting said securing nuts for locking said first and second adjustment studs respectively to the first and second adjustment plates ~~with said securing nut~~, when said first and second adjusting studs have moved said driven wheel such that said flexible power transmission means has the final tension.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of providing guide markings on ~~wherein~~ the first and second adjustment plates ~~each include at least one guide marking placed for alignment with calibration marks of said forked frame member~~ to insure that the ~~axle~~ axle member is correctly oriented with respect to said forked frame member.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein varying the first and second adjustment studs to move said driven wheel incrementally comprises the steps of:

selectively adjusting one of the first and second adjustment studs to move said driven wheel such that the flexible power transmission means is at the final tension;

noting location of the axle member within the forked frame member by location of said guide markings; and

adjusting the other of the first and second adjustment studs to move said axle member to align with guide markings.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appl. No.: 10/633,106 | Agent Docket: JS03-001 |
| Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005 | Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005 |

1 27. (Amended)The method of claim 19 wherein the flexible power transmission
2 means is selected from the group of power transmission means consisting of a
3 chain ~~and said chain is engaged with teeth of a sprocket coupled to said driven~~
4 wheel and a belt placed on a pulley coupled to said driven wheel.

1 28. (Cancelled)

2 29. (New)The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:
3 removing an original equipment tension adjusting device attached
4 to said axle member and coupled to said forked frame member.